

D R A F T

SUMMARY

Creates Oregon Independent Science Review Board.

Establishes Independent Scientific Review Secretariat as administrative section within the Institute for Natural Resources at Oregon State University.

Establishes Independent Scientific Review Fund. Continuously appropriates moneys in fund to Higher Education Coordinating Commission for distribution to Oregon State University for purposes of board and secretariat.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

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2 Relating to independent scientific review.

3 Whereas Oregon's natural resource agencies, legislators and the public
4 would benefit from independent science reviews; and

5 Whereas for an independent science review program to be beneficial, in-
6 dependent science reviews need to be focused appropriately and carried out
7 in a deliberate, transparent manner; and

8 Whereas most single-agency science review needs can be met with exist-
9 ing state, federal and academic resources, but review practices and capacity
10 for conducting science reviews vary considerably among state agencies; and

11 Whereas there is a need for independent science review of natural re-
12 source issues that are complex and multidisciplinary, that require the in-
13 volvement of multiple agencies and that are relevant to stakeholders and
14 lawmakers; and

15 Whereas existing state resources are not adequate to address the needs
16 presented by such complex, multidisciplinary natural resource issues; and

17 Whereas independent science review mechanisms and structures that are
18 used for natural resource policymaking in other states and at the federal

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 level can inform a process for independent science reviews in Oregon; and

2 Whereas there is also a need for Oregon to develop a tailored approach
3 to independent science reviews, drawing upon the lessons learned from other
4 state and federal independent science review processes in order to reduce the
5 potential risks of independent science reviews; now, therefore,

6 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

7 **SECTION 1. (1) The Oregon Independent Science Review Board is**
8 **created. The board consists of seven members appointed by the Gov-**
9 **ernor.**

10 **(2) Persons appointed members of the board must possess the fol-**
11 **lowing attributes:**

12 **(a) Scientific or technical expertise, which may include legal or**
13 **policy expertise, relevant to a broad range of natural resource disci-**
14 **plines;**

15 **(b) A willingness to engage with stakeholders in natural resource**
16 **issues and maintain transparency with regard to the work of the**
17 **board;**

18 **(c) An ability to communicate complex technical issues in a**
19 **straightforward manner;**

20 **(d) An ability to extract meaningful, addressable scientific**
21 **questions from complex natural resource issues;**

22 **(e) Objectivity and familiarity with independent scientific review**
23 **processes;**

24 **(f) An ability to chair an independent science review process that**
25 **involves effectively and efficiently receiving input from a large number**
26 **of experts;**

27 **(g) Familiarity with the state of Oregon's natural resources and the**
28 **communities and sectors that rely on Oregon's natural resources for**
29 **their well-being; and**

30 **(h) An ability to identify and engage the needed expertise for each**
31 **issue being addressed in the course of independent science review.**

1 **(3) The term of office of each member of the board is four years,**
2 **but a member serves at the pleasure of the Governor. Before the ex-**
3 **piration of the term of a member, the Governor shall appoint a suc-**
4 **cessor whose term begins on January 1 next following. A member is**
5 **eligible for reappointment, but may serve as a member for no more**
6 **than two consecutive terms. If there is a vacancy for any cause, the**
7 **Governor shall make an appointment to become immediately effective**
8 **for the unexpired term.**

9 **(4) At the first meeting of each year, the board shall elect one of**
10 **its members to serve as chairperson. The chairperson shall have a**
11 **term of one year, with duties and powers that the board determines**
12 **are necessary for the performance of the functions that the board as-**
13 **signs to the chairperson.**

14 **(5) A majority of the members of the board constitutes a quorum**
15 **for the transaction of business.**

16 **(6) Official action by the board requires the approval of a majority**
17 **of the members of the board.**

18 **(7) The board shall meet at times and places specified by the call**
19 **of the chairperson or of a majority of the members of the board.**

20 **(8) The board may adopt rules necessary for operation of the board.**

21 **(9) A member of the board is entitled to compensation and expenses**
22 **as provided in ORS 292.495.**

23 **SECTION 2.** **The Oregon Independent Science Review Board shall:**

24 **(1) Receive, evaluate and direct the Independent Scientific Review**
25 **Secretariat to convene independent scientific review panels to address**
26 **requests by state agencies, local governments and private persons for**
27 **independent scientific review of complex, multidisciplinary natural**
28 **resource issues that require the involvement of multiple agencies.**

29 **(2) Assist the secretariat in identifying, recruiting and selecting**
30 **persons to serve on independent scientific review panels.**

31 **(3) Assist in framing the questions to be addressed by independent**

1 **scientific review panels.**

2 **(4) Provide for leadership and management of independent scientific**
3 **review panels by developing a process by which individual members**
4 **of the board shall be assigned to serve as chairperson for individual**
5 **independent scientific review panels.**

6 **(5) Provide other advice and direction as necessary to support the**
7 **activities of the secretariat.**

8 **(6) Approve the final membership of each independent scientific**
9 **review panel as designated by the secretariat.**

10 **(7) Establish policy and procedures for the secretariat and programs**
11 **and activities administered by the secretariat.**

12 **SECTION 3. (1) The Independent Scientific Review Secretariat is**
13 **established as an administrative section within the Institute for Na-**
14 **tural Resources established at Oregon State University under ORS**
15 **352.808, subject to the supervision of the Administrator of the Inde-**
16 **pendent Scientific Review Secretariat and the policies and procedures**
17 **established by, and recommendations of, the Oregon Independent Sci-**
18 **ence Review Board.**

19 **(2) The secretariat consists of the administrator and all personnel**
20 **employed in the secretariat.**

21 **(3) Subject to subsection (1) of this section, the secretariat shall**
22 **develop and administer programs as set forth in this section and sec-**
23 **tion 5 of this 2019 Act and administer funds available in the Inde-**
24 **pendent Scientific Review Fund created in section 7 of this 2019 Act.**

25 **(4) The secretariat shall provide the board with staff and other as-**
26 **sistance as necessary for the board to perform its duties.**

27 **SECTION 4. (1) The Independent Scientific Review Secretariat shall:**

28 **(a) Assist the Oregon Independent Science Review Board in identi-**
29 **fying the type of independent scientific review necessary to address a**
30 **particular issue presented to the board.**

31 **(b) Serve as the primary point of contact for members of the public**

1 for matters related to the activities of the board and the secretariat.

2 (c) Supervise and assist in establishing the scope of work and other
3 administrative matters applicable to independent scientific review
4 panels.

5 (d) Maintain a list of experts available to participate as members
6 of independent scientific review panels.

7 (2) The secretariat may:

8 (a) Conduct hearings and conferences to develop facts, to explain
9 programs and activities and to obtain advice.

10 (b) Enter into agreements with other public bodies, as defined in
11 ORS 174.109, or associations or private persons for services to assist
12 the secretariat and the board.

13 (c) Enter into agreements with other public bodies, as defined in
14 ORS 174.109, the federal government, associations or private persons
15 for cooperative endeavors that further programs administered by the
16 secretariat.

17 (d) Obtain assistance or data from any state agency.

18 (e) Perform any other act necessary to carry out the duties of the
19 secretariat.

20 SECTION 5. (1) The Governor, upon consultation with the Oregon
21 Independent Science Review Board, shall appoint an Administrator of
22 the Independent Scientific Review Secretariat who shall serve at the
23 pleasure of the Governor.

24 (2) The Governor shall set the compensation of the administrator.

25 (3) The administrator shall be the administrative head of the
26 secretariat.

27 (4) The administrator shall hire the staff necessary to allow the
28 secretariat to carry out its duties. In accordance with the State Per-
29 sonnel Relations Law, the administrator and any manager hired by the
30 administrator shall be in the unclassified service.

31 SECTION 6. (1) The Independent Scientific Review Fund is estab-

1 **lished in the State Treasury, separate and distinct from the General**
2 **Fund. Moneys in the Independent Scientific Review Fund are contin-**
3 **uously appropriated to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission**
4 **to be distributed to Oregon State University for the purposes of**
5 **sections 1 to 5 of this 2019 Act.**

6 **(2) The Independent Scientific Review Fund consists of all moneys**
7 **appropriated or transferred to the fund and moneys received as gifts,**
8 **grants or contributions from any source, whether public or private.**

9 **SECTION 7. Notwithstanding the term of office specified by section**
10 **1 of this 2019 Act, of the members first appointed to the Oregon Inde-**
11 **pendent Science Review Board:**

12 **(1) Two shall serve for terms ending December 31, 2020.**

13 **(2) Two shall serve for terms ending December 31, 2021.**

14 **(3) Two shall serve for terms ending December 31, 2022.**

15 **(4) One shall serve for a term ending December 31, 2023.**

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